STRENGTHENING THE NUCLEAR SAFETY REGULATORY BODY (SLR/9/005) 11

CORE FINANCING

YEAR	Experts		Equipment	Fellowships		Scientific Visits		Training	Sub-contracts	Misc. Comp.	Total
	m/d	US $	US $	m/d	US $	m/d	US $	US $	US $	US $	US $
1995	6/ 0	68,400	15,000	6/ 0	19,800	-	-	-	-	-	103,200
1996	6/ 0	72,000	15,000	6/ 0	20,700	-	-	-	-	-	107,700

FOOTNOTE a/ FINANCING

YEAR	Experts		Equipment	Fellowships		Scientific Visits		Training	Sub-contracts	Misc. Comp.	Total
	m/d	US $	US $	m/d	US $	m/d	US $	US $	US $	US $	US $
1995	6/ 0	75,600	-	6/ 0	19,800	-	-	-	-	-	95,400
1996	6/ 0	79,200	-	6/ 0	20,700	-	-	-	-	-	99,900

First Year Approved: 94 Total expenditure to 30 September 1994: $72,161 (TACF)

OBJECTIVES: To strengthen the Slovak Nuclear Regulatory Authority's (SNRA) capabilities to enable it to fulfil the majority of its established nuclear regulatory tasks to the level of good international practice.

BACKGROUND: The project responds to the need to strengthen the regulatory body in the Slovak Republic. This need arises from the dissolution of the former Czech and Slovak Republic in 1992, and was already expressed in the request submitted to the Agency earlier in 1992 by the Preparatory Committee of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic. The new Slovak authorities were faced with the immense problem of regulating and licensing all nuclear activities in their territory, in particular the decommissioning of the A-1 reactor (HWGCR) following a severe accident in 1977, the operation of two WWER 440/V230s and two WWER 440/V213 reactors in Bohunice, and the construction of four WWER 440/V213 units in Mochovce. Responsibility for the regulation of nuclear safety in the Slovak Republic was given to the newly established Slovak Nuclear Regulatory Authority (SNRA). According to present legislation, SNRA acts as an independent regulatory body and reports directly to the Government. The Chairman of SNRA is appointed by the President of the Republic. As part of its responsibilities, SNRA has to ensure safety of nuclear facilities, including spent fuel and other phases of the fuel cycle and radwaste treatment, implement safeguards and control of nuclear fuel and other nuclear materials including dual-use components, and evaluate the quality assurance programmes for selected nuclear components. At present, SNRA has 65 staff members. The staff was recruited from nuclear power plants, research institutes, various ministries and other non-nuclear regulatory bodies. More than 80% are University graduates, and although all of them are technically competent in their own field, very few have much experience in nuclear safety regulation. Only six site inspectors transferred from the former Czechoslovak Atomic Energy Commission (CSAEC) to SNRA, and thus there is a need for extensive training of SNRA staff. SNRA has identified a number of shortcomings in the existing legislation which require significant improvements. It was therefore recommended by the CEC/IAEA mission undertaken in July 1993 that SNRA should develop, as a matter of priority and with the assistance of the Agency, a policy and implementation programme to address the need for adequate legislation and personnel training, and to review the nuclear law. Assistance on the part of the Agency, particularly through the provision of expert services and the organization of workshops, could substantially influence this process.

PROJECT PLAN: This project started as part of the 1994 programme. The project's planned duration is three years. The initial efforts in 1994 concentrated on developing nuclear legislation and establishing a sound role and structure for the regulatory body. During this phase scientific visits/fellowships were provided to enable selected regulatory body staff to obtain a broad international picture of various options which would serve as a basis to define their own requirements. During 1995, expert missions, workshops and training in areas of development of national nuclear legislation, role and structure of the nuclear safety regulatory body, response to radiological accidents, emergency planning and preparedness, and information to the public will be provided.

NATIONAL COMMITMENT: The Government will fully finance the operational costs of the project by providing SNRA with adequate office facilities and an annual budget to cover salaries, travel and other operating expenses.

AGENCY INPUT: Expert services; equipment and training.

IMPACT: The Government considers nuclear safety to be an important issue, since nuclear power plants play an indispensable role in the energy sector with a very favourable economic impact on electricity prices. At present, Slovakia has the fourth highest nuclear share in electricity production worldwide. In 1994, the four reactors at the Bohunice Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) produced nearly 50% of total electricity in the country. The results of this project would therefore have a direct political and social impact. The benefits would already become apparent in the short term because of the important role that an established regulatory body could play in the country's nuclear activities, particularly with regard to the build-up of public confidence in the safe operation of NPPs. The full impact, however, is expected in the medium and long term, once the project is fully implemented. The project should have a significant impact on the drafting of both primary national legislation and the secondary legislation (decrees or subsidiary lower legislation), which are relevant to nuclear safety. Through the initiatives of the WWER Regulatory Bodies Group, which are currently carried out by the Slovak, Czech and Bulgarian regulatory bodies, the project could have an impact on the improvement of nuclear safety in other Central and Eastern European countries.